NREGA

1004. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reports prepared by the senior officials of the Ministry on first hand experience, on the status of programme implementation for National Rural Employment Guarantee Act reveal that at least 30 districts from different States do not present encouraging results;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons put forward in the reports;

(c) what steps are being taken to improve the position in these districts; and

(d) whether the State Government have issued any instructions or guidelines for its successful implementation and if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) NREGA is a new programme which involves a number of legal processes like registration, verification, issue of job cards etc. and pace of implementation varies in different areas. The main reasons for comparatively slow progress in certain areas were elections in some States like Bihar, West Bengal. Tamil Nadu and Kerala, inadequate availability of staff and need for training

(c) The progress of NREGA is being regularly reviewed with States States have been requested to provide adequate staff and arrange training. Separate additional funds have been given for training. Training of Trainers programmes have been arranged by NIRD Hyderabad. Progress has considerably improved. Out of 7328551 persons who have demanded employment, 6886729 have been provided, which is 93.97%.

(d) Operational Guidelines have been prepared by this Ministry for implementation of the Act and copies of the Guidelines have been provided to all the blocks in a district for their guidance. Besides, instructions have been issued by the Central Government from time to time for effective implementation of the Act by the States.

Low-cost loans for rural housing

1005. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of rural households living in mud (Kutcha) homes in India;

(b) whether Government has any scheme to extend low-cost housing